

# Paraphrase

On the XXVIII Chapter

OF

## DEUTERONOMY.

By M<sup>r</sup> J<sup>c</sup> S<sup>t</sup> L<sup>o</sup> N<sup>o</sup> J<sup>o</sup> C<sup>l</sup> E<sup>r</sup> E<sup>y</sup>

*A Verse may find him, who a Sermon flies,*

*And turn Delight into a Sacrifice.*

Herbert.

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## CHESTER:

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# Preface.

AM sincerely thankful to all my kind Subscribers, but in a particular Manner to my extraordinary ones; in which Number I had the Happiness of having Persons of HONOUR, and DISTINCTION.

But lest an ill writ Piece (to which They have generously contributed) should give Occasion for any to presume to censure Their Judgment; I take this publick Opportunity of declaring that not one of Them saw a Line of the Copy till it was printed off; and that what They contributed was not in Regard to my Merit, but my Circumstances.

I come next (tho' in a very uncourtey Way) to express my Gratitude to my good Friends, to whose amicable Industry I owe the handsome Number of Subscriptions I

am

## P R E F A C E,

am possess'd of; and their Readiness to serve me in that Particular, gives me Encouragement to intercede farther for their good Offices in delivering the Books to such Subscribers as were by them influenc'd; and to receive from them such Sums, as by Virtue of their Subscriptions they became liable to pay.

Lastly, I desire to put it out of the Power of any Subscriber to say I have dealt unfairly by him, by reminding him that all I promis'd in my Proposals are honestly perform'd, VIZ. Good Paper, good Letter, &c. For good Verses I am sure I promis'd none, because I knew my self incapable of making any.

A

**P A R A P H R A S E**  
ON THE XXVIII CHAPTER  
O F  
**D E U T E R O N O M Y.**

**I**F thou wilt listen to what I impart,  
With willing Ears, and a retentive Heart ;  
And make it thy chief Care to understand,  
And do what I preceptively command ;  
Thy Pow'r all Nations ( tho' combin'd ) shall sway,  
And they shall thee submissively obey.  
Conquests and Triumphs, they shall only lead,  
A goodlier Train of Blessings to succeed :  
Blessings shall overtake thee in the Way,  
If thou my Laws religiously obey.

## *A Paraphrase on the XXVIII*

If Choice shall thee in City Walls immure,

In Peace, and Safety thou shalt be secure :

If solitary Fields thee more delight ;

There Nought shall hurt thee, Nothing thee affright.

I'll bless thee with a num'rous Progeny,

Comely in Form, and willing to obey.

Success shall crown thy Labours in the Field ;

And ev'ry Year a plenteous Harvest yield.

Thy Pastures shall with warlike Steeds abound,

And Beasts of Burden overspread thy Ground :

Kine shall with Milk, and Butter load thy Board ;

And in their Species, vast Increase afford :

Numberless Numbers of thy Heeey Flocks,

Shall cloth thy Mountains, and the Goats thy Rocks,

They Food to thee shall Strength, and Health afford ;

And

And I'll preserve what thou in Plenty stor'd.  
When thou comes Home profusive Scenes of Joy  
Shall glad thy Heart, and dance before thy Eye :  
Thy Wife ( whose virtuous Conduct ne'er gave way  
For wounding Jealousies destructive Sway )  
Shall with a chaste Embrace thy welcome give ;  
From thee the same, thy Children shall receive ;  
With filial Pleasure shall obedient stand,  
To listen to thy Counsel, and Command.  
If Busines, or Diversion call thee out  
To travel, or to range the Fields about ;  
No Dread shall seize thee ; calm thy Mind shall be  
As Infant's Slumbers, or a Summer's Sea :  
Thy Mind shall ne'er by Travel be depreſſ'd ;  
I'll plant a choice Companion in thy Breast,  
Conscience

Conscience ! than which Friends, Musick, grapy Juice  
But flat, insipid Pleasures do produce.

Celestial Angels safe shall thee convey,  
Lest Fiends, or Savages obstruct thy Way.

If Hosts of armed Men shall thee invade,  
Undaunted thou shalt ( by JEHOVAH's Aid )  
Hew them in pieces ; and thine Eyes shall see  
That GOD himself decreed thee Victory :

One Way they'll take the Field in proud Array,  
But sev'n the scatter'd Rout shall flee away.

I'll bless thy Store ; and crown thy good Intents  
With great Success, and fortunate Events :  
I'll bless thy dwelling Place that it shall be  
A beauteous, fruitful Paradise to thee.

Thee I'll establish ( as I've sworn ) thee chuse ;  
And

## Chapter of Deuteronomy.

And heav'nly Virtues thro' thy Mind diffuse ;  
If thou to my Commands Obedience pay ;  
And shun the vicious, the destructive Way.  
Remotest Nations shall thy Banners fear,  
Not only 'cause JEHOVAH's written there ;  
But by convincing Characters shall see  
From thy Success, that thou art call'd by me.  
When thou shalt dwell in CANAAN's fruitful Land,  
Which I have sworn shall be at thy Command ;  
I'll Children, Goods, and Kine in plenty give,  
And thou on choicest Fruits at large shalt live.  
Celestial Treasures I'll to thee display ;  
Prolifick Dews shall fall at close of Day :  
In proper Seasons I'll distill my Rain  
To fructify thy Vines, and feed thy Grain.

Large

Large as thy Stores, I will thy Heart extend;  
To needy Neighbouring Nations thou shalt lend.  
But Nothing borrow, 'twould be Sin in thee  
Who Nothing wants to feign Necessity.  
And as in Riches, so in Regal Pow'r,  
All other Kingdoms thou shalt far out soar ;  
Homage, and Tribute, Kings shall pay to thee,  
Confessing thy superiour Sov'reignty :  
If thou'l from Vice preserve that little Part,  
( That Spring of good and ill ) the active Heart ;  
Sooth it into a fix'd Propensity,  
To keep my Statutes, and to follow me.  
In Worship shun *Enthusiastick Fires*,  
And it's reverse Extreme, *Lukewarm Desires* ;  
Thy whole Dependance hourly fix on me,

Left

Lest thou to wooden *Gods* shoul'st bend the Knee,  
But if thou violate my just Commands,  
And give thy Mind to Lust ; to Fraud thy Hands ;  
Let Vice th' Ascendant o'er thy Reason gain,  
And say to Sin and Folly thou shalt reign,  
Both Heav'n, and Earth shall jointly thee undo,  
And complicated Curses thee pursue.

Not City Walls, with all her lofty Spires ;  
Nor Fields shall skreen from my vindictive Fires,  
Thy Food shall tasteless, and insipid be,  
Nourish Diseases, but not nourish thee :  
Worms shall destroy the Kernel of thy Grain,  
And for thy Store the husky Part remain.  
Thou shalt beget a vile, rebellious Race ;  
The Nations Scandal ! and thy own Disgrace !  
Lightning, and Frost shall wound each fruitful Tree ;

## *A Paraphrase on the XXVIII*

And many a blasted Harvest thou shalt see :  
Thou shalt in vain lament-in vain repine,  
To see the scanty Product of thy Kine ;  
Thy Sheep that did Meat, Drink, and Cloaths produce,  
A parched Plain shall make unfit for Use ;  
Their young shall bleat, when they in vain shall tug  
The dry, the wither'd, and the shrivel'd Dug.  
Thy Coming in, and Going out shall be,  
Contemn'd, and equally accurs'd by me.  
Thy self, shall by thy self be much abhor'd ;  
Thy Mind shall not one pleasing Thought afford ;  
oads of Rebuke, and Shame thy Heart shall burst,  
Il make thee so effectually accurs'd.  
estruction, Death shall rush on thee a main,  
wift as the hasty Torrent sweeps the Plain :  
or thy Transgressions this shall come on thee,  
Because

Because thou basely hast forsaken me.

The noisome Pestilence to thee shall cleave ;  
Shall cut thee off, and thou shalt cease to live ;  
Shall thee consume in exquisite Distress,  
When thou shalt Guilt, and *Canaan's* Land possess.  
Troops of Diseases shall thy Health o'er take,  
And Havock of thy Constitution make :  
Consumptions wear thee to a Skeleton ;  
And waft thee to the Carcase of a Man :  
The thirsty Fever, burning Calenture,  
And the destructive Sword shalt thou endure :  
To blast thy Hopes I'll smite the ripening Blade ;  
And cank'ring Mildews shall thy Grafs invade ;  
And they shall never, never cease from thence,  
Until thou perish by their Influence.  
Rain thro' the Clouds shall find no Way to thee,  
For

For Heav'n as hard as molten Brass shall be ;  
The Earth that willingly receiv'd the Plough,  
Shall change it's mellow Form, and Ir'n shall grow,  
The Clouds those usual Vehicles of Rain,  
Shall arid Dust, and Powder then contain ;  
Which shall on thee in dreadful Show'rs descend,  
Till thou shalt perish ; till thou have an End.  
I'll give my Sword of Justice to thy Foes  
To hew thee down, when thou'l in vain oppose,  
Flush'd with thy past Successes, thou'l unite  
One Way to War, but sev'n shall be thy Flight :  
To ev'ry Prince I'll make you captive Slaves,  
Far as the Sea extends her liquid Waves.  
On thee shall feed both Birds, and Beasts of Prey ;  
And none vouchsafe to frighten them away.

With

With such like Boils as once were *Egypt's* Doom  
On thee (ungrateful thee !) I'll surely come ;  
To them the painful Hemorrhoids I'll fix ;  
The loathsome Scab, and the infectious Itch ;  
Which singly, or conjunctly shall defy  
The Pow'r of Medicine to rectify.

A raging Frenzy shall infect thy Brain ;  
An horrid Darkness o'er thy Eyes shall reign ;  
Astonishment shall seize thy panting Heart ;  
And Guilt, and Terror to thy Mind impart.

Glim'ring of Light, and stringy Beams of Day  
The Sun does even to the Blind convey ;  
But not to thee ; for his Meridian Tide  
Shall lend thee Nought but Fingers for thy Guide.

Adverse

Adverse Events shall o'er thy Projects sway ;  
And no Prosperity attend thy Way :  
The Day shall come big with Calamity,  
When none shall be oppress'd, but only thee ;  
Rapine shall still what thou acquires command,  
And none shall rescue from the Robber's Hand.  
Thou shalt betroth a Wife, and mourn to see  
Her carry'd to another's Bed from thee :  
Expensive Piles of Building thou shalt rear,  
But not be suffer'd to inhabit there ;  
And Vineyards thou shalt plant which shall produce  
Abundant Grapes, but for another's Use.  
Thy Foes before thine Eyes thine Ox shall slay ;  
And not one Morsel back to thee repay :  
Hands

Hands train'd to Violence thine Als shall take,

But never any Restitution make :

Victorious Foes shall call thy Sheep their own ;

In Triumph drive them from their wonted Home ;

And to their Rescue, none vouchsafe to come.

Thy Son's Affections, and thy Daughter's Heart

From their own Tribes, and Kindred shall depart ;

With Aliens marry, and by them shall be

Enticed to a Land that's far from thee :

In vain thine Eyes shall look, *thine* Heart shall mourn

In fruitless Woe, expecting their return :

Thine Arm which once the stoutest Foe could dare

Shall then be feeble, and unfit for War.

Corn

Corn, Wine, and Oyl those Products of thy Toil,  
An unknown Nation shall consume and spoil :

Oppression shall be thy peculiar Share ;

And all the Marks of Bondage thou shalt wear.

Excess of Grief thy Reason shall dethrone ;

And wild Distraction thro' thy Senses run,

To see thy wealthy Store in Pieces torn,

Thy Foes successful, and thy self forlorn.

Thy Knees, and Legs the Botch shall overspread,

Which shall extend it's Bale from Foot to Head ;

Rancour confirm, and rivet the Disease

Beyond the Reach of Physick to appease.

Thy *KING* whom (prompted by ambitious Fires)  
Thou'l

Thou'l make the Object of thy wild Desires ;

Exil'd with thee shall to a Nation go,

Which thou, nor thy Forefathers e'er did know :

There thou inanimated *Gods*, shalt own,

Worship the breathless Tree, and senseless Stone.

Nations thro' which thou shalt an Exile go

Shall with Astonishment survey thy Woe :

With keen Invectives fill'd, and pointed Jeers

Proverbs, and By-Words shall offend thy Ears.

In gen'rous Handfuls thou shalt sow thy Grain,

And reap by single Ears, but Part again ;

The sprouting Blade the Locust shall consume,

And Gleanings for thy Harvest be thy Doom :

With

With Labour thou shalt plant, and dress the Vine,  
But neither store the Grapes, nor drink the Wine : }  
The Worms shall eat 'em ; thou in vain repine.  
Thy Land abundant Olives shall produce,  
But yield no oyly Ointment for thy Use ;  
For Show'rs of Olives from each Parent Tree,  
Shall fall (unripen'd) and abortive be.  
To thee shall Sons be born, and Daughters live,  
But thou no Comfort shalt from them receive ;  
Excessive sorrow they shall be to thee,  
*For they shall go into Captivity.*  
Trees, and their Fruits which us'd to fill thy Store,  
Num'rous consuming Locusts shall devour.  
Each Stranger which was thy domestick Slave  
Shall high o'er thee advance; and thee shall brave :  
Thy hasty Fall, thy Stranger's wond'rous Rise,  
Ages to come shall equally surprize :

Not

Not thou to him, but he to thee shall lend ;  
He shall be *Sov'reign*, thou the Knee shalt bend.  
This dreadful Catalogue of Curses shall  
Pursue thee, overtake thee, till thou fall ;  
Because thy impious Heart, and stubborn Ear,  
Would not vouchsafe my healing Voice to hear ;  
Would not vouchsafe religiously to be  
Obedient to what I commanded thee.  
For Signs, and Wonders these I'll never fail  
On thee, and thine for ever to intail.  
Because when I gave all thou could'st desire,  
Thy Heart to Gratitude would ne'er aspire ;  
'Cause thou with Joy, and Gladness ne'er would wait  
To serve the Author of thy prosp'rous State.  
Thou therefore shalt in Hunger, Nakedness,  
In Thirst, in Want, and very great Distress,

In

In Yokes of Ir'n, serve thy victorious Foe,  
Till he by my Commission thee o'erthrew.  
'Gainst thee I'll bring a Nation from afar,  
Swift as the Eagle, fiercely bent for War ;  
From Earth's remotest Distance they shall fly,  
Whose Speech shall thy Interpreters defy :  
With Aspects stern, and Heart's obdurate grown,  
Proof 'gainst the Infant's Cry, and th' Aged's Moan.  
They on thy Fruits, thy Corn, thy Oyl, thy Wine,  
And on the Product of thy Sheep, and Kine  
Luxuriously shall Feast ; and thee deride,  
Till thou, and they be totally destroy'd.  
They shall besiege the Gates of ev'ry Town ;  
Thy high and lofty Walls shall tumble down,  
In which thou vainly put thy Confidence ;  
Thy Turrets they shall raze, and drive thee thence :

Nor

Nor Wall, nor Gate shall Strength enough afford  
To shelter thee, from their prevailing Sword.  
The Fruit of thy own Body thou shalt eat,  
Thy Sons, and Daughters roast, and sod for Meat ;  
This thou shalt do thro' Want and Scarcity  
Wherewith the Victors shall environ thee.  
The tender Man, whose sympathizing Heart  
Ne'er fail'd with the distress'd to bear a Part ;  
Whose sickly Frame, and late abundant Good  
Made delicate, and curious in his Food ;  
Shall view his Brother with invidious Eyes,  
His Heart shall harden, and his Wife despite,  
Shall no Compassion to his Infants shew ;  
No Signs of Pity to th' uneaten few ;  
His Eyes, his keen Intents shall more explain  
To feed on them that living do remain ;  
To an them to feed, with Sons already slain.

Thy Food being spent, thy Hunger to appease  
Shall prompt thee to such horrid Acts as these.

The tender Woman delicately bred,  
Whose Foot disdain'd her Parent Earth to tread,  
Shall all the Ties of Nature then forego ;  
Shall loath her Children, and her Husband too ;  
Shall with revengeful Eyes her Babes survey ;  
And they shall to her Hunger fall a Prey :  
The Child new sprung from her prolifick Womb  
Shall with her other Children share the Doom :  
Of Food bereav'd, urg'd by excessive Need  
She dreadfully on her own Young shall feed ;

This

This in the Siege shall be in Secret done,  
(When Anguish, and Distress in Floods shall come;) But more for Fear, than Shame; lest others should By Force become Partakers in her Food.

If to my Laws thou cease Regard to have  
Which I in Thunder from Mount *Sinai* gave;  
If in thy Soul Fear e'er should want Abode  
Towards that glorious Name the **LORD THY GOD**;  
Plagues, (wond'rous Plagues!) I will intail on thee,  
Of Durance long, and on thy Progeny:  
Thee grievous Sickneses shall persecute,  
Which shall be very lasting, and acute.

26 *A Paraphrase on the XXVIII*

I'll bring on thee Diseases such as made

Thee whilst in *Egypt's* Bondage sore afraid :

Such as all *Pharoah's* Subjects felt but thee,

Tho' then thou shalt no more from them be free.

What e'er Disease can humane Reft invade,

Of which herein there is no Mention made,

I'll bring on thee in Troops-their Vengeance guide ;

Till thee, and thine for ever be destroy'd.

A scanty Number shall thy Tribes comprise,

Once num'rous as the Stars which deck the Skies :

Thy Fall shall be as wond'rous as thy Rise ;

Because thou woul'st not hearken to my Voice.

As

*Chapter of Deuteronomy,*

2

As I with Pleasure have done good to thee,  
And greatly multipli'd thy Family ;  
The Day shall come and I it Pleasure call,  
To work thy Ruin, and to see thy Fall :  
As Weeds are pluck'd up by the Tiller's Toil,  
So shall ye be from *CANAAN*'s fruitful Soil.  
No more shall ye combine; but scatter'd go  
From North, to South--far as the Winds can blow  
There other *Gods* ye shall both serve, and own,  
Carv'd from the sappy Wood, and crumbling Stone  
*Gods*, which to you, nor yours were ever known  
When thus confus'd, thus variously dispers'd  
In foreign Nations, thou shalt find no Rest :

Trembling

Tremblings shall seize thine Heart, Dimpleness thine  
Eyes,  
And Floods of Sorrow shall thy Mind surprize.

Thy Vitals shall by Horror be depress'd,  
And dismal Apprehensions fill thy Breast :  
Such Agonies of Thought thy Soul o'er cast,  
That thou shalt wish each Day and Night thy last ;  
When Day appears then thou shalt wish for Night,  
When Night comes on, long for the Morning Light ;  
Such Loathing thou to present Time shall have,  
And thus shall Fear thy Faculties enslave ;  
Which greatly shall increase when thou shalt see  
Destruction like a Sea encompass thee.

In

In Hopes of your Obedience, once I said  
Ye should no more be *Egypt's Captives* made ;  
But now you've basely forfeited your Claim ;  
And ye shall go in Ships, from whence ye came ;  
And there on \* Scaffolds be expos'd to Sale  
To your old Foes--who thus to'ards you shall rail.  
*Visitors*--are these the Captives you would sell ?  
They're not for us--we know the *Hebrew's* well !  
For they who Vice before their GOD prefer'd  
Are neither worth our Money, nor Regard.

\* See *Jun : Trem* :

F I N I S.

# Postscript.

**T**HE Sincerity of my Friends made them unwilling to return my Proposals while they had the Hopes of increasing the Number of Subscriptions: which chiefly occasioned the Time I previously proposed to some of my Friends for the Delivery of the Books to be so far exceeded. For which Mistake I ask their Pardon; and that of the rest of my SUBSCRIBERS who have thought me remiss in the Delivery: and I doubt not but the Truth of this Assertion will secure me their generous Forgiveness.

